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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS (57) Abstract The smoking of tobacco products such as cigarettes results in the production of carcinogenic compounds formed from nitrogen and carbon. The addition of small quantities of zinc oxide or ferric oxide to the tobacco reduces or eliminates these carcinogenic compounds and also has the advantage of removing the stale 'after taste' associated with cigarettes.		

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Title: Improvements in and relating to tobacco products

The present invention relates to tobacco products.

It has been well established for many years that the smoking of tobacco products is a primary cause of lung
5 cancer. It is the nitrogen/carbon compounds which are produced by combustion of the tobacco in a tobacco product such as a cigarette and which are inhaled which are the cancer forming agents. Nitrogen and carbon combine to form, for example, pyridenes which are carcinogenous.

The present invention seeks to provide an improved form of
10 tobacco product.

The term "tobacco" used herein includes not only tobacco but also other substances and tobacco-like substances which may be smoked.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a mixture
15 comprising tobacco and at least one substance selected from iron and zinc compounds of the type that are reduced to iron or zinc respectively on exposure to high temperatures.

Under the conditions existing in the combustion area of a

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tobacco product which is being smoked, such as a cigarette, incorporating for example ferric oxide in particulate form, the ferric oxide is reduced to iron. In this state immediately after reduction the iron is pure and highly
5 reactive, dissociating water vapour into hydrogen and oxygen and also causing the preferential combination of nitrogen with hydrogen, rather than with oxygen and carbon, to form ammonia in trace quantities which vapourise. Thus the combination of nitrogen and carbon to form, for
10 example, pyridenes is reduced if not eliminated. The use alternatively or additionally of zinc oxide produces a similar effect and increases the nicotine yield in the resulting smoke.

Apart from the reduction or elimination of the
15 carcinogenous products of smoking, the addition of ferric oxide and/or zinc oxide also has the unexpected effect of removing the less desirable "taste" or "after taste" aspects of the tobacco products.

It will be appreciated that only minute quantities of
20 ferric oxide and/or zinc oxide are required and, since this compound is an inert, non-toxic, naturally occurring compound which is available in considerable quantities the addition of ferric oxide and/or zinc oxide does not in itself promote any harmful after effects.

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The most effective way of mixing the zinc oxide in ferric oxide with tobacco is to form the zinc oxide or ferric oxide in solution in e.g. water and spray the solution onto the tobacco. As the tobacco dries, the zinc oxide or ferric
5 oxide is left as a deposit on the tobacco.

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Claims:

1. A mixture comprising tobacco and at least one substance selected from iron and zinc compounds of the type that are reduced to iron and zinc respectively on exposure
5 to high temperatures.
2. A mixture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said iron compound is ferric oxide.
3. A mixture as claimed in claim 1 wherein said zinc compound is zinc oxide.
- 10 4. A tobacco product containing the mixture of claim 1, 2 or 3.
5. A tobacco product as claimed in claim 4 wherein said product is a cigarette.
6. A tobacco product as claimed in claim 4 wherein said
15 product is a cigar.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/GB 86/00749

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁴		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
IPC ⁴ : A 24 B 15/28		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC ⁴	A 24 B	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the extent that such Documents are included in the Fields Searched ⁶		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ⁵		
Category ⁸	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X,Y	FR, A, 2117355 (LIGGETT & MYERS INCORPORATED) 21 July 1972, see claims 1,5,6,7 --	1,3,4,5,6
X,Y	DE, C, 537734 (WENDT'S CIGARETTENFABRIKEN A.G.) 6 November 1931, see claim; examples I,II --	1,2,4,5,6
X	DE, A, 2227832 (BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO CO. LTD) 11 January 1973, see claims 1-6; page 1, lines 1 and 2 --	1,3,4,5,6
X	DE, A, 2525276 (BRASE GmbH) 13 January 1977, see claims 9,13,14,35,44; page 1, lines 1,2 -----	1-6
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IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
9th March 1987	03 APR 1987	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	M. VAN MOE	

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PCT/GB 86/00749 (SA 15500)

This Annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 17/03/87

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
FR-A- 2117355	21/07/72	NL-A- 7116687 DE-A- 2159921 US-A- 3720214 GB-A- 1336623 CH-A- 547611 CA-A- 987992 EE-A- 776125	06/06/72 31/08/72 13/03/73 07/11/73 11/04/74 27/04/76 04/04/72
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DE-A- 2525276	13/01/77	None	

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